

One of the easiest, most cost effective ways to improve building performance is to ensure that proper insulation is installed in a building.

While most of us think that insulation is only for our walls and attics, thermal insulation for piping and equipment, known as mechanical insulation, is a vital component for commercial and industrial applications.

In an effort to address this issue, I introduced H.R. 184, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act of 2013. This legislation is designed to incentivize commercial and industrial facility owners to make their buildings and facilities more efficient and put people back to work.

According to the National Insulation Association, improved insulation for piping and mechanical components in commercial and industrial settings will help business save more than \$4.8 billion a year.

These improvements will also save resources to the tune of more than 82 million barrels of oil, or 19 million tons of coal.

I ask all my colleagues to consider supporting H.R. 184. It's a commonsense bill that will save money, improve facility operations, put people to work, and help our buildings and facilities perform to a higher standard.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to acknowledge the hard work that our nation's architects, engineers, and building professionals do to improve the condition of our homes, schools, and businesses.

CONGRATULATING JERRY WOLFE ON HIS DESIGNATION AS BELOVED MAN OF THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

### HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2013*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cherokee Tribal Elder Jerry Wolfe, a decorated World War II D-Day veteran who was recently named a Beloved Man of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

This is the first time since the early 1800s that a Cherokee man has been awarded this special status.

Historically, Beloved Men and Beloved Women have been revered even above Tribal Chiefs due to the strong example they set for all members of the Tribe.

Mr. Wolfe joined the U.S. Navy at age 18 and devoted six years to defending his country. On D-Day, he served on a landing craft at Omaha Beach, France, and later deployed to Pearl Harbor.

Assigned to the USS *Missouri*, Mr. Wolfe witnessed the peace treaty signed by U.S. and Japanese officials to end the Pacific theater of World War II.

Mr. Wolfe currently works part-time at the Museum of the Cherokee, sharing his knowledge of Cherokee culture. His service at the museum is yet another testament to his lifelong commitment to service.

Mr. Wolfe has been widely recognized for his dedication to cultural preservation. He received the North Carolina Folk Heritage Award in 2003 and the Brown-Hudson Folklore Award from the North Carolina Folklore Society in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 11th District of North Carolina, I congratulate Mr.

Wolfe on his lifetime of achievement and thank him for his service to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and to our Nation.

### 4 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR IN SRI LANKA

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2013*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 4th anniversary of the end of the tragic civil war in Sri Lanka that has cost many lives and destroyed many futures.

As Sri Lanka and its people slowly begin to return to normalcy, there is still much that the government of Sri Lanka must do to achieve true peace. While the war has ended, the conflict between its people still goes on. In particular, I am troubled that not enough progress is being made towards true political reconciliation. The deaths of thousands of civilians, on both sides, during the war must be investigated and addressed to truly begin the process of healing.

In addition, it is important to recognize that the Tamils must be integrated and become full and valued citizens of the country for true reconciliation to occur; this includes preventing forced displacement and the uprooting of families and communities from their homes. The US-sponsored resolution that passed the United Nations Human Rights Council this March that urged the Sri Lankan government to credibly and independently investigate the allegations of international human rights violations is a good first step.

I urge the government of Sri Lanka to work with the international community and the United Nations to adopt an international mechanism towards reconciliation for all people.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,734,808,644,648.07. We've added \$6,110,451,189,734,235.05 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2013*

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House on Friday, May 17. During this time, I was home attending my daughter's kindergarten graduation ceremony. I would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance for the following votes:

Rollcall No. 155, on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 216, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1062. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 156, on the Adoption of H. Res. 216, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1062. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 157, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 2. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 158, on Agreeing to Amendment No. 3. I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 159, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1062 with instructions. I would have voted "no."

Rollcall No. 160, on Passage of H.R. 1062, the SEC Regulatory Accountability Act. I would have voted "yea."

### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE TAX AVOIDANCE PROBLEM

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 20, 2013*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to come before the House to introduce legislation ending a current law loophole that allows foreign insurance groups to strip their U.S. income into tax havens to avoid U.S. tax and gain a competitive advantage over American companies. I am pleased to be joined in my efforts by Senator MENENDEZ, who is introducing the Senate companion bill.

Many foreign-based insurance companies are using affiliate reinsurance to shift their U.S. reserves into tax havens overseas, thereby avoiding U.S. tax on their investment income. This provides these companies with a significant unfair competitive advantage over U.S.-based companies, which must pay tax on their investment income. To take advantage of this loophole, several U.S. companies have "inverted" into tax havens and numerous other companies have been formed offshore. And, absent effective legislation, industry experts have predicted that capital migration will continue to grow, stating that "redomestication offshore will be a competitive necessity for many U.S. primary 'specialty' insurers." As we grapple with significant budget challenges in the years to come, it is essential that we not allow the continued migration of capital overseas and erosion of our tax base. Clearly, at a time when we are considering a move to a territorial system with base erosion rules applicable to U.S. companies, we must also have "credible" rules to prevent base erosion by foreign companies doing business in the U.S.

There have been previous attempts to address the tax avoidance problem resulting from reinsurance between related entities. Congress first recognized the problem of excessive reinsurance in 1984 and provided specific authority to Treasury under Section 845 of the Tax Code to reallocate items and make adjustments in reinsurance transactions in order to prevent tax avoidance or evasion. In 2003, the Bush Treasury Department testified before Congress that the existing mechanisms were not sufficient. In 2004, Congress amended Section 845 to expand the authority of Treasury to not only reallocate among the parties to a reinsurance agreement but also to recharacterize items within or related to the